

HA-1838
1921
Bel Air
Private

The French House, 333 Williams St., faces west on a large, shady lot at the corner of W. Broadway in Richardson's Addition. It is a very simple 2 story, gable-roofed clapboard house, 2 bays square, with a center chimney at the peak of the roof, a bit larger than the other houses in this end of Richardson's Addition. Its only ornament is a hipped front porch carried on 4 simple round columns. The square balustrade is recent. Although it was built in 1921, the windows are an old-fashioned 2/2 double-hung sash. There is a side porch in the east bay of the south elevation.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. This 2 bay square house is in the north end of Richardson's Addition, an area of mostly working-man's houses. It is a bit bigger than its neighbors, built in the vernacular style popular all over town before and after. It was built in 1921 for Harry French and his wife, probably by the McComas Brothers, since the 1922 mortgage, defaulted in 1925, was to them. They owned the lumberyard on N. Main St. near the now demolished train station [HA-1443, HA-1443] and often built houses on their own account or for others, sometimes just giving credit for materials.

HA-1838
French House
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

☒ 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

☐ 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA-1030

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic French House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 333 Williams St. n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state MD county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. Joseph Foster

street & number 48 W. Gordon St. telephone no.: 879-7323

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 613

street & number folio 609

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

Depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AL-130

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> in now	

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The French House, 333 Williams St., faces west on a large, shady lot at the corner of W. Broadway. It is a very simple 2 story, gable-roofed clapboard house, 2 bays square, with a center chimney at the peak of the roof, a bit larger than the other houses in this end of Richardson's Addition. Its only ornament is a hipped front porch carried on 4 simple round columns. The square balustrade is recent. Although it was built in 1921, the windows are an old-fashioned 2/2 double-hung sash. There is a side porch in the east bay of the south elevation.

Mr. Foster declined to have the interior visited. It is said to have living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and a bath.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1038

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1921 Builder/Architect McComas Bros.

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition, begun at the same time, are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. This 2 bay square house is in the north end of Richardson's Addition, an area of mostly working-man's houses. It is a bit bigger than its neighbors, built in the vernacular style popular all over town before and after. It was built in 1921 for Harry French and his wife, probably by the McComas Brothers, since the 1922 mortgage, defaulted in 1925, was to them. They owned the lumberyard on N. Main St. near the now demolished train station [HA-1443, HA-1443] and often built houses on their own account or for others, sometimes just giving credit for materials.

The defaulted mortgage was for \$2400. John Robinson, the assignee, sold the house to the McComases for \$3000. The McComases held it as a rental. Mary McComas, widow of Emory McComas, acquired the house in 1941 as part of the property division on the deaths of both brothers. She sold it to Joseph W. Foster, proprietor of Foster Funeral Home across the street, in 1963. It continues as a rental.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AL-1530

Harford County Land Records

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Foster, 30 April 1993.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Bel AirQuadrangle scale 1:2,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting				Northing				

B

Zone	Easting				Northing				

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 483 in the Town of Bel Air, 50' x 145'.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Marilyn M. Lareworganization _____ date 7-15-93street & number RD 1, Box 219 telephone 717-993-3557city or town New Park state PA 17352

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES
DHCP/DHOL
100 COMMUNITY PLAZA
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2020
(410) 740-0000

HA-1838
French House
333 Williams St.
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Joseph William Foster

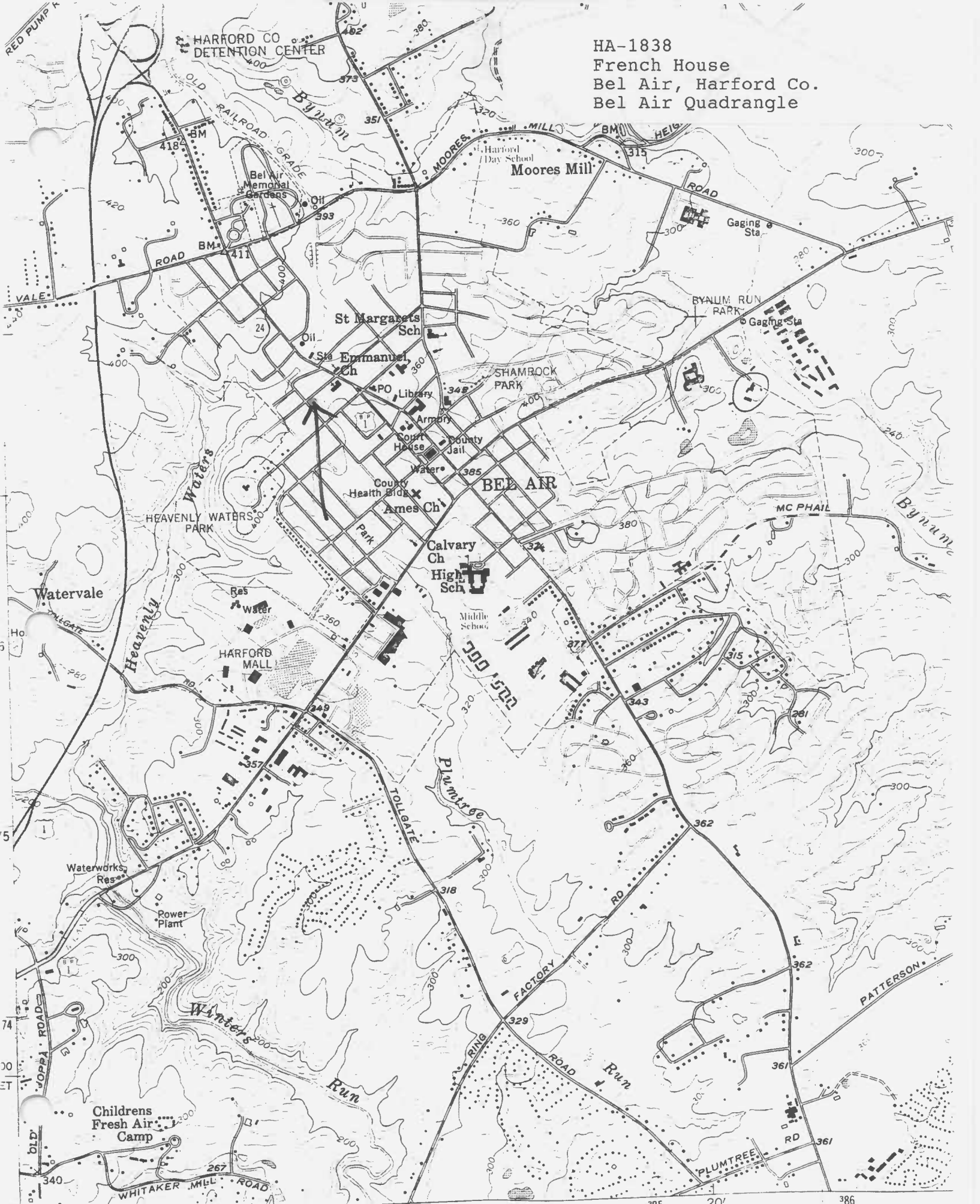
613/609 12 Mar 1963
Mary B. McComas, widow
to
Joseph William Foster and Jeanne
lots 16 and 17 block A, Richardson's Addition
parcel 2 in 265/205

265/205 10 Apr 1941
Mary B. McComas, trustee
to
self
Mrs. McComas is trustee to sell real estate in the law
suit Equity Docket 3/29, the division of property
between the heirs of M. Stanley and Emory A. McComas,
both deceased. Mary is the widow of Emory A.

195/282 4 Dec 1925
John A. Robinson, assignee
to
M. Stanley and Emory McComas
\$3000
defaulted mortgage Harry R. French and Lucille to the
McComases 8 Feb 1922 for \$2400

176/98 3 Nov 1921
C. Clyde Spencer and Estelle M.
to
Harry R. French and Lucille A.
lots 16 and 17 block A, Richardson's Addition

150/254 25 May 1915
Henrietta Rouse et al
to
C. C. Spencer
\$240
The Rouses and Miss Richardson own Richardson's
Addition



HA-1838
French House
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Bel Air Quadrangle



HA 1938

8.

74 20
112 5

333 WILLIAMS ST.
BEL AIR



333 WILLIAMS ST.
BEL AIR